



Children's Defense Fund

March 20, 2001

The Honorable Greg Ganske
United States House of Representatives
1108 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Ganske:

I am writing to express the support of the Children's Defense Fund for passage of the Bipartisan Patient Protection Act of 2001. Your bill lives up to its title and deserves prompt passage and enactment into law.

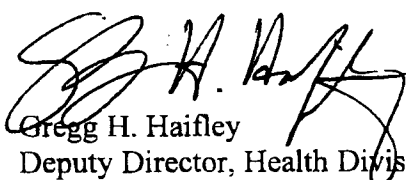
The Children's Defense Fund strongly supports this measure because it is tailored to meet the health care needs of children and their families who are enrolled in managed care. In particular, I want to commend you for including a number of protections that are essential for reform to be meaningful for millions of children. Your bill includes provisions to ensure that:

- Families will be able to designate pediatricians as their children's primary care providers;
- Children will be able to see specialists with appropriate pediatric expertise;
- Children with special conditions (including those which are life-threatening, degenerative, or disabling) will be able to receive their ongoing care for their conditions from specialists without repeated referrals from primary care providers;
- Health plans, when reviewing whether a child's care is needed or appropriate, will use criteria based pediatric-specific evidence, where available and appropriate; and
- Independent reviewers outside of health care plans will exercise unbiased judgment when families appeal health plan limitation or denial of care, and pediatric specialist reviewers will participate, when appropriate, in deciding appeals of limitation or denial of care for children.

Your bill includes critical protections to ensure that children have rights and remedies where injury results from wrongful denial or limitation of care, and to ensure appropriate access to emergency care, specialists, and clinical trials.

The Children's Defense Fund applauds your focus on solutions to the problems faced by millions of managed care enrollees and your willingness to reach across the political divide to find solid compromises. We look forward to working with you for passage of this legislation by the Congress.

Sincerely,


Gregg H. Haifley
Deputy Director, Health Division

25 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20001
Telephone 202 628 8787
Fax 202 662 3510
E-mail
cdfinfo@childrensdefense.org
Internet
www.childrensdefense.org